K. Poplicola

A LETTER,

To Certain of the

ELECTORS

OF THE

COUNTY

OF

L— —G F— —D.

T — — G L — — D'

OR

C O M I C A

BRITISH MUSEUM

E T E O L S

OF

T E L L E R

TO

CERTAIN of the ELECTORS of the County of *L—gf—d.*

GENTLEMEN,

SINCE the Commencement of the preſent Conteſt for your County, a Variety of Letters and Paragraphs relative to it has appeared in the public Prints, ſome of which the Author of this Paper has read, and ſome have eſcaped him. Amongſt thoſe which Chance threw in his Way was one, replete with Indelicacy and Falſhood, which appeared in an Evening Paper not long ſince, the Signature of which was borrowed from an Expreſſion of one of your Candidates at your laſt County Meeting,—an Expreſſion rather *more vulgar* than recommendatory, and which, I believe, will not be very ſoon conſigned to Oblivion by the good People of the County of *L—gf—d.* I confeſs, Gentlemen, I ſhould be aſhamed of mentioning this, or any ſimilar Publication to you, at all, if they did not ſerve to convince you more thoroughly than any other Words poſſibly can, of the extreme Wretchedneſs of the Cauſe which they are meant to defend.

The ſole Queſtion for you, Gentlemen, to determine on, is, who are the moſt eligible Perſons to repreſent you in Parliament? That Mr. H——n deſerves every Mark of Favour at your Hands, is certainly true; as certain, indeed, as that Mr. G—— does not. And here, Gentlemen, let me, with all Deference, take Notice of what appears to me a moſt egregious Inconſiſtency in your Conduct,—an Inconſiſtency which has been uniformly perſevered in for ſeveral Years paſt, and which, it ſeems, ſome amongſt you, ſo far from repenting of, are reſolved, with unuſual Intrepidity, and Hardihood in Error, moſt tenaciouſly to adhere to. Let me aſk you then, on *what Principles* you have hitherto ſupported Mr. H——, or on what Principles has *he aſked* your Support? On what Principles have you almoſt to a Man applauded his Parliamentary Conduct? On the late Meeting of your County, when various Candidates appeared amongſt you, what was it that united all Suffrages in his Favour? Undoubtedly his honeſt and upright Behaviour, as your Repreſentative! Let me now aſk you, on what Principles you have hitherto ſupported Mr. G——; or, on what Principles has *he* aſked your Support? Theſe Queſtions are, I fancy, not ſo eaſily anſwered as the former. Look you now what follows: You return Mr. H—— to Parliament, becauſe

he is *not* a Placeman; and you return Mr. G—— becauſe he *is* one. Nothing in Nature can be more oppoſite than the Conduct of theſe two Gentlemen has been; and yet, Mr. G—— and his Adherents go forth, and tell the World, with all poſſible Gravity, "That you *ſtill* conſider him and Mr. H—— "as the *only* proper Perſons to repreſent "you in Parliament; and that, at the late "Meeting of the County, almoſt every reſ- "pectable Gentleman ſpoke in Favour of "their preſent Repreſentatives." Really, Gentlemen, I can conſider this in no other Light than a *Jeu d'Eſprit* of the ingenious Colonel's; and, I muſt ſay, that he has not acted with all the Gratitude to you that might be reaſonably expected, in repreſenting you, in this Manner, as the moſt extraordinary eccentric Set of People that ever met together. For if his Report ſhould *eventually* prove true, how can you, in the Name of common Senſe, reconcile your Conduct to yourſelves? If, in private Life, a Man beſtowed an *indiſcriminate* Regard on *one* Perſon, becauſe that Perſon uniformly ſupported his *real Intereſt*; and, on another, becauſe he uniformly neglected it; or, from ſome peculiar Circumſtances, was totally incapable of attending to it, what would you think of this Man? *Quid rides? mutato nomine, &c.* To purſue this a little further,

—When

—When Don Carlos, in Dr. Young's Play of the Revenge, ſays to Alonzo,

" I love fair Leonora. How I love her!
" Yet ſtill I know not how it is! I have
" Another Heart, another Soul for thee."

He ſpeaks a Language which every one acquainted with the human Heart, and who knows the very different Feelings which we have for a Miſtreſs and a Friend, underſtands perfectly well. But when the County of L——d ſays, " I love good Mr. H——n, " How I love him" and then ſuddenly turns about to Colonel G——, and goes on, " Yet " *ſtill* I *know not* how it is. I have *another* " *Heart—another Vote for thee.*" I am afraid the County of L—— will not be *quite* as intelligible as Don Carlos; and, indeed, Gentlemen, I defy you to tell how it *is*, or how you can, with the ſmalleſt Shadow of Propriety, compliment thoſe Gentlemen in the ſame Moment.

I have always underſtood, Gentlemen, that *one great Object* which every Independent County in both Kingdoms *never* loſt Sight of, was, (as far as it could be obtained) a perfect Harmony, and Coincidence of Sentiment in the two Perſons whom they deputed to Parliament. On Queſtions of no *very* particular Magnitude thoſe Repreſentatives may, indeed, occaſionally differ; but on *great* and conſtitutional Queſtions, which

which from Time to Time agitate the public Mind, it is ſcarcely poſſible almoſt, if they attend to the Sentiments of their Conſtituents, that they ſhould not act in Concert. But, Gentlemen, there are ſome amongſt you, whoſe Habits of thinking (if they ever thought at all on the Subject) are perfectly hoſtile to all this, who entertain a very whimſical and very novel Idea, that the public Good is accelerated moſt by a *diſſimilarity* of Opinion in their Repreſentatives, and that the chief Excellence and primary Recommendation of any two given Members for a County, is their total, unvarying, unqualified Diſagreement on every parliamentary Queſtion which comes before them; however, I flatter myſelf, that the County of L------- will think very differently, and that it will not ſend Mr. H------ and Mr. G------- into Parliament, merely that they may ſtand exactly in the ſame aukward Predicament that Wit and Judgment are ſaid to be by Pope:

" ——————*Perpetually at Strife,*
" *Tho' meant each other's Aid, like Man and Wife.*"

Gentlemen, with Mr. G——'s private Character I have nothing to do; he may, and I make no Doubt *does*, deſerve that Applauſe in domeſtic, which no independent Man can, in my Opinion, afford him in

public

public Life; his Friends are numerous, and, as a private Gentleman, I believe him to be worthy of all their Attachment; but, Gentlemen, no Hoſt of Friends, no Reſpectability of Connexion, no Aſſemblage of agreeable and engaging Qualities, can atone for public Delinquency; nor are you to be told that a Man may be graced with ſome of the moſt charming Virtues, and yet be, without Queſtion, a moſt dangerous and improper Member of Parliament. When, therefore, I ſay, that however you or I may reſpect Mr. G------'s private Character, he *ought* to be rejected by you, I ſpeak common Senſe and conſtitutional Language. Indeed, he is ſo *rich* in Diſqualifications for any Sort of parliamentary Truſt, that the Attention is immediately fatigued by the ridiculous Variety of them, and one turns with Compaſſion from the uncommon Copiouſneſs of his Character in this Reſpect, to the unlimited Folly of thoſe who ſupport him.

I can aſſure you, Gentlemen, once more, that I have no "perſonal Cauſe to ſpurn" at the worthy Col---l; and could a Man be elected an *honorary* Member of Parliament, I, for my Part, have no Objection to his Appearance in that very original and innoxious Character. Though, perhaps, I am rather precipitant in ſaying this, as I certainly

certainly may be told that the Col. (like *Moliere*'s Bourgeois *Gentil homme*, who was reading Proſe all his Life without knowing any Thing of the Matter) *is already*, and has been for ſeveral Years paſt, one or two Inſtances only excepted, an *honorary* Member to all Intents and Purpoſes; if ſo, I beg Leave to withdraw my Recommendation. But ſeriouſly, if I do oppoſe him, it is becauſe I really think he is a very improper Perſon to repreſent you in Parliament, and Mr. F-x juſt the Contrary. The latter is a young Man, and *perfectly independent*; his Fortune, his Education, his Underſtanding, render him in every Reſpect capable of ſerving you, as a free County ought ONLY to be ſerved. I am not writing his Eulogium, I am only ſtating Facts, which the induſtrious Cunning, and vigilant Malignity, of ſome of his Opponents would endeavour to ſuppreſs. If, indeed, I had not long ſince ceaſed to be aſtoniſhed at any Abſurdity which the Heart of Man gives Way to, I confeſs I ſhould be ſurprized at the lamentable Imbecility of a Perſon, who, in the Decline of Life, and ſtill more of Conſtitution, ſedulouſly abridges the ſad Remains of his domeſtic Comforts and Enjoyments; and amidſt the dangerous Counſels of thoſe who call themſelves his Friends, the polite but decided Diſapprobation of ſome, and the unmoved Contempt of many, ruſh-

es

es on all the corroding Diſquietudes, all the giddy Turmoil, all the indecorous Riot and inſane War of a conteſted Election. But what can we think of thoſe very venerable Freemen who ſupport this Gentleman? What can we think of a County which returns a Man to Parliament merely that he *may ſtay away from it*; and which (ridiculouſly paradoxical as the Aſſertion appears) is never ſo happily, ſo honourably, and ſo judiciouſly repreſented by him, as when he is *faſt in his Bed?* Yet this is the Man whom ſome of you would impoſe on poor Mr. H——n as a *right active*, and very *worthy* Colleague. I confeſs, Gentlemen, I am at a Loſs to know on what Model you have formed your Sentiments; to me you ſeem anxious to revive the Ideas of Mezentius; and accordingly *couple a dead Body* and a *living one together*.

But you are told, Gentlemen, that the *Peace of the County* will be utterly deſtroyed by the intended Oppoſition to Mr. G—. What Alarm this electioneering Prophecy may create in the Minds of the weak and unthinking, I really cannot tell, but that it is *not totally* inoperative I have ſome Reaſon to believe, as I never knew a Canvaſs yet where the general Good of the Kingdom was preferred (as in the preſent Inſtance) to the miſerable circumſcribed Intereſts

tereſts of a ſolitary Individual, that it was not made Uſe of. In Truth, Gentlemen, it is become as much a Watch-word to all Courtiers and their Attendants, as the celebrated Cry of the Tories was to that Party at the Beginning of the Century, "*that the Church was in Danger*. Whenever they wiſhed to harraſs the Whigs, this was *their* unvarying Exclamation, as you are now told, that the *Peace of your County is in Danger*. But, for my Part, I know of nothing that will be in Danger, or put to the Hazard, by the preſent Conteſt, except the worthy Col's *Place*; and ſhould the preſent Oppoſition prevail, *that* may perhaps be in *very great* Danger. That Diſorders, and very lamentable ones too, ariſe at conteſted Elections, is beyond all Doubt; and in whatever Purſuits the Paſſions and Prejudices of Mankind are engaged, ſimilar Conſequences will follow. Such is the Imperfection of our Nature, and who can remedy it? But ſhall we, to avoid a temporary Inconvenience and Misfortune, embrace a permanent Evil? Are we to confine our Regards merely to ourſelves, and totally to forget that we owe a Duty to the Kingdom at large, as well as to the County to which we accidentally belong? Shall a Man who has ſcarcely attended Parliament at all, and whoſe Attendance *when there* (in Conſequence too of a corrupt Secretary's

mandatory

mandatory Letter) was peculiarly adverſe to your beſt Rights and Intereſts; ſhall ſuch a Man once more ſolicit your Favour, and be received with open Arms, becauſe, indeed, "the Peace of the County," would be diſturbed if you declined ſupporting him any longer; yet this is the eternal Mode of reaſoning adopted by ſome, who, in their great political Wiſdom, ſtile themſelves, "the moderate and ſenſible Part of the County of L—". To thoſe Gentlemen, therefore, I beg Leave particularly to addreſs myſelf: If you return Mr. G— again, you may be certain that he will act preciſely the ſame Part he has hitherto acted; but what then? Your Celebrity, your Conſequence, as a County riſing ſuperior to the Shackles which once confined it, will indeed run to Waſte; your deareſt Privileges will be altogether neglected; but what then? You will have the Satisfaction of reflecting that you did not diſturb the Harmony of *any one Family* in the County: this will be the very Luxury of thinking to *tranquil* Minds like yours; ſome of the Counties around you, who certainly do not *ſeek Peace* with ſo much Earneſtneſs as you do, may in their Purſuit of Freedom, be thrown on a Sea of Troubles, whilſt you, Gentlemen, will enjoy a *dead Calm* of fixed Repoſe: no ſplendid Exertion, no generous Effort to aſſert your Equality; tenderly ſolicitous as

you

you are for your own Quiet, you will contemplate *that*, and that *alone* with peculiar Complacency: and whilſt you may very poſſibly be ſneered and laughed at by half the Kingdom, (and from ſuch Scoffs, I am afraid it will not be very eaſy to ſhelter you) you will bleſs the Benignity of your Stars that you have *at all Events* ſecured the Peace of the County.

I have heard, Gentlemen, ſome of Mr. G——'s Friends aſk, (and with very indiſcreet Triumph, in my Opinion) "Well, you complain of Mr. G——'s Conduct. He met the County on the 29th of April, and why did you not then ſtate your Objections to him?" To this ſilly Queſtion I ſhall, once for all, condeſcend to make this Anſwer: "That that Meeting was not deciſive, or *intended* to be ſo, of the Sentiments of the County. That any material Oppoſition to him *then* would have been nugatory and idle, and productive only of *premature* Acrimony, and ill Blood. That ſuppoſing all that could have been ſaid againſt him, had then been ſaid, would it have prevented his being put into Nomination? It is a wretched Miſrepreſentation and filching of a Queſtion, to ſay, that becauſe I do not *directly* and *violently* oppoſe, I *abſolutely* and *implicitly* approve. Every one knows how thoſe County Meetings end

—in

—in juſt nothing at all. Indeed the C——l was judicious enough in the Choice of his Ground on the 29th of April; for his predominant Anxiety *then* was not ſo much to juſtify his parliamentary Conduct (*that*, he knew, was not eaſy to be done) as to prove to the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders, "*that he really was not dying*;" an Aſſertion which no Man in the Hall could, with any great Humanity or Propriety, very well contradict. In the Diſtribution of public Honours, it would be as illiberal as unjuſt to withhold them from a Man, becauſe he did not enjoy as uninterrupted Health as his Neighbours; but however our Feelings may ſympathize with one who is a Victim to almoſt perpetual Indiſpoſition, it would be very extraordinary, indeed, if that Indiſpoſition was not conſidered in ſuch a Conteſt as this, as an almoſt inſuperable Bar to the Attainment of a Seat in the H—— of C——; the neceſſary and proper Attendance on which is ſometimes inimical even to the beſt Conſtitutions, but is utterly incompatible with a frail and impoveriſhed one.

Gentlemen, I have now only to requeſt your Indulgence for having treſpaſſed ſo long on your Patience; but as it is the firſt, and in all Probability, the laſt, Time I ſhall do myſelf the Honour of addreſſing you, I thought it would be better to be even ſomewhat tedious

tedious than not ſufficiently explicit. I have ſpoken of public Men without deſcending to Perſonalities, and given you my Sentiments, as to your own Conduct, without Adulation. The General Election is drawing near, and the Event of that muſt determine, whether you will act with that Spirit, and Senſe of Freedom, which, from my Knowledge of the County of L——d, and the many reſpectable Characters it contains, I hope and truſt you will. One Word more and I have done: Let no one imagine, that in the above Strictures, I preſumed, in the ſmalleſt Degree, to glance at the Conduct of a noble L—d, who, at your Meeting, avowed his Intention of ſupporting Mr. G. I can, with Truth, declare, that no Perſon entertains a more unfeigned Regard for the ſuperior Senſe, the great profeſſional Talents and decided Honour, of that very reſpectable Peer, than the Author of this Paper. The Reaſons which he adduced for ſupporting, *at preſent*, both your Repreſentatives, you are already in Poſſeſſion of; it is therefore almoſt unneceſſary to add, that any Thing advanced here, can in no wiſe be affected by them: They were honourable in every Part, and afford no Room for Animadverſion.

POPLICOLA.

6 DE 58